Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09195 271232Z ACTION CU-03

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OEXC, UR, PINT (PINES, BURT)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY

REF: (A) STATE 119559 (NOTAL), (B) MOSCOW 7981 (NOTAL)

1. ON JUNE 24 EMBOFF ACCOMPANIED BURT PINES, LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY, TO APPOINTMENT WITH MOSCOW CITY PROKUROR (I.E., PROSECUTOR) MIKHAIL GRIGOR'YEVICH MAL'KOV. PINES WAS ALSO ACCOMPANIED BY RONALD BLANC, A LOS ANGELES ATTORNEY TRAVELLING WITH PINES. MAL'KOV WAS GLANKED BY HIS DEPUTY, A STAFF AIDE, AND AN INDIVIDUAL WHOM MAL'KOV DID NOT INTRODUCE, WHO TOOK NOTES. THE 90-MINUTE DISCUSSION OVER REFRESHMENTS BEGAN WITH PLEASANTRIES AND COMPARISON IN GENERAL TERMS OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPERATIONS OF SOVIET AND U.S. PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ON THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL.

2. AFTER MAL'KOV COMPLETED DESCRIPTION OF LEGAL PROCEDURES EMPLOYED DURING AND FOLLOWING ARREST IN USSR DESIGNED TO PROTECT RIGHTS OF ACCUSED, PINES INQUIRED HOW THESE PROCEDURES APPLIED TO CASE OF ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY. ATMOSPHERE CHILLED AT ONCE AS MAL'KOV TERSELY REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH CASE AND KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT, BUT THAT CASE WAS BEING HANDLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOVIET LAW AND ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 09195 271232Z

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS BY PINES ABOUT SHCHARANSKIY CASE CAUSED MAL'KOV TO DECLARE INDIGNANTLY AND EMPHATICALLY THAT THERE WAS ALTOGETHER TOO MUCH NOISE ABROAD ABOUT CASE AND THAT SOVIET SIDE DID NOT INTERFERE IN U.S. INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE DID NOT RESPOND TO PINES' OFFER TO DISCUSS ANY U.S. LEGAL CASE MAL'KOV CARED TO RAISE. MEETING ENDED ON RELATIVELY AMICABLE NOTE WITH MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF USEFUL ROLE OF EXCHANGES, CONTACTS, AND

DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL COUNTERPARTS.

- 3. PINES EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING MEETING IN MOSCOW, AS WELL AS THOSE HE HAD WITH CITY PROSECUTORS IN KIEV AND LENINGRAD, WHERE HE WAS ASSISTED BY KAP AND CONGEN, RESPECTIVELY.
- 4. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH MAL'KOV, PINES REVEALED THAT HE HAD LOOKED UP A NUMBER OF JEWISH REFUSENIKS AND DISSIDENTS IN MOSCOW AS WELL AS IN OTHER CITIES ON HIS ITINERARY. IN MOSCOW THE NIGHT BEFORE, HE HAD MET WITH MARK AZBEL, VENIAMIN FAYN, AND SEVERAL OTHERS.
- 5. PINES REPORTED NEWS THAT FAYN HAD JUST BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE. (AZBEL HAD RECEIVED HIS ABOUT TWO WEEKS EARLIER.)
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